

# International Agribusiness Center

Weekly Country Report, November 9-13, 2020

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## **USDA/Global Agricultural Information Network Reports**

**Brazil - Ministry of Agriculture Changes Import License Requirement to Facilitate Corn and Soybean Imports - [link](#)**

Brazil's Agriculture Ministry (MAPA) issued a normative instruction meant to facilitate imports of genetically modified (GMO) corn and soybeans from the United States. This Normative Instruction changes the information that must appear on an import license (IL) for products intended to be used in animal feed or for veterinary use. However, there is no evidence to suggest that this normative instruction establishes approval for GMO corn and soybean varieties that have not been approved by the National Technical Biosafety Commission. As such, asynchrony in biotech approvals may still present a hurdle to U.S. corn and soybean exports to Brazil.

**Colombia - Post Secures the Release of Six Containers of American Agricultural Products Valued at 250 Thousand Dollars - [link](#)**

On October 16, FAS Bogota learned that six containers of U.S. frozen pork loins, mechanically deboned chicken, and fat-free milk powder had been detained by the local food safety authority, INVIMA, at the ports of Buenaventura and Cartagena. Detentions resulted from alleged non-compliance with local labeling requirements. FAS quickly contacted U.S. trade association representatives and U.S. food safety authorities and worked successfully with INVIMA to allow the importers to fix the labeling issues and avoid the rejection/destruction of the shipments. This resulted in the release of all six containers on October 21.

In the past several years, stuck shipment assistance has become a key part of the services FAS provides to U.S. food and agricultural exporters who commonly find the Colombian regulatory system challenging to navigate. Post estimates that this assistance results in over \$1 million in trade preserved annually. As INVIMA's physical inspections at ports of entry and volumes exported to Colombia return to pre-Covid levels, FAS Bogota expects to see an increase in detentions of U.S. shipments. FAS Bogota will continue to build upon the close working relationship it has with local authorities at ports of entry.

**Denmark - Government to Cull All Mink in Denmark Due to COVID-19 - [link](#)**

In the summer of 2020, the first mink farms in North Jutland were infected with coronavirus (COVID19). In response, the Danish government instituted various measures to stop the virus from spreading. Despite the Government's efforts, the virus continued to spread and eventually mutated. By early November, the virus had spread to 216 farms spread across Jutland, and, according to the National Health Institute, one variant that can spread to humans was identified as being less susceptible to a future vaccine. As a result, the Danish Government made the difficult decision to cull the country's entire mink population (as many as 17 million head).



## INDIA - FSSAI Allows Specialty Food Imports to India for an Additional Six Months - [link](#)

On October 28, 2020, the Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published a fourth consecutive timeline extension on specialty food imports for special medical and therapeutic purposes. In its earlier notification dated April 20, 2020, the FSSAI granted a six-month extension from February 2 to November 1, 2020, or until the time the standards were established, whichever was earlier. The current notification extends the timeline by another six months from its previous date to May 1, 2021, or until the FSSAI establishes its corresponding standards, whichever is earlier.

## Japan - Policies and Procedures for Genome Edited Food and Agricultural Products - [link](#)

The Government of Japan has completed and published guidelines for handling food and agricultural products derived from genome editing technology. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare developed and oversees the guidelines for genome edited food and food additives. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries developed and oversees the guidelines for both genome edited feed and feed additives as well as the impact of genome edited products on the biodiversity of products within its jurisdiction. The Consumer Affairs Agency has also finalized guidance on labeling genome edited products.

## Brazil - Agricultural Prices Stoke Inflation - [link](#)

Brazil's consumer inflation has been steadily rising over the summer and into the fall. The increase has, in large part, been fueled by spiking food and beverage prices. Basic staples such as rice, beans, and soy cooking oil rose the most in percentage terms. With the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, consumer demand rose on the back of increasing consumption at home, as well as a new tendency to stock up on basic food staples. However, an important factor contributing to Brazil's food inflation is Brazil's role as a key global supplier of agricultural commodities and food products. Brazil's 2020 agricultural export boom has created scarcity and higher prices on the domestic market. Although Brazil eliminated import tariffs on rice, corn, soybeans, soy oil and meal, food inflation is unlikely to subside for several more months until the 2020/21 grain and oilseed harvests begin to come online.

## The EU Adopts Countermeasures Against US Exports Following WTO Ruling on Boeing - [link](#)

On November 9, 2020, the European Commission imposed additional tariffs to a list of U.S. products following the WTO ruling against U.S. subsidies to aircraft maker Boeing. This GAIN report lists the products that will be affected by these additional tariffs.

## China – Retail Foods - [link](#)

China's retail sector continues to grow to new highs as the number of middle-class consumers keeps growing. Online and offline stores continue to expand their footprint to attract customers who increasingly value quality, safety, convenience, and nutrition. The retail food industry held up relatively well despite the COVID-19 economic downturn during the first half of 2020. Imports of consumer oriented food products climbed to a record high of \$73 billion in 2019, but U.S. sales were down because of China's retaliatory duties. However, imports of U.S. retail food products are gaining ground in 2020 because of the U.S.-China Economic & Trade Agreement.

*Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.*

## **Food Processing Magazine**

Gummy Maker to Build in Wisconsin - [link](#)

A German candy processor has finalized plans to build a plant for gummy bears and other products in Wisconsin – three years after they were first announced. Haribo, known for its fruit-flavored gummy bears, will spend more than \$300 million on a 137-acre greenfield site in Pleasant Prairie, about 35 miles south of Milwaukee. It's the largest capital project in the German company's history and its first in North America.

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Country reports were started in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

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